



## Climate Change Hits Home in Alaska

### Yup'ik Students Tell How They Are Affected by Global Warming

BY LAUREN G. MCCLANAHAN

**I**n Kwigillingok, Alaska, climate change is not something that the local students simply read about in newspapers or see on television. To them, climate change is occurring directly beneath their feet.

Climate change is having a very real effect on the lives of these students and all of the approximately 400 residents of this western Alaska fishing village.

The residents of "Kwig," a Yup'ik (indigenous Alaskan) village, depend on fishing, hunting and selling crafts to survive, much as they have done for centuries. However, our warming earth is now threatening that culture.



The biggest challenge faced by the residents of Kwig is the melting of the permafrost, a layer of frozen ground that lies just below the earth's surface and that is supposed to stay frozen year-round. Recently, that permafrost has begun to melt, and as a result, major changes are taking place. Many homes and other structures in the village are beginning to sink, leaning to one side as the

permafrost they were built upon begins to shift.

In addition to the sinking homes, new, invasive species of plants are beginning to take root and grow, which in turn is slowly changing the migratory patterns of big animals such as the musk ox.

Fishing, too, has been affected by the warming trend, and fisherfolk have had to relocate due to the changing location of the fish.

These are big changes that can be seen, felt and experienced daily in the lives of Kwig's students.

Lauren G. McClanahan is an associate professor of secondary education at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington.

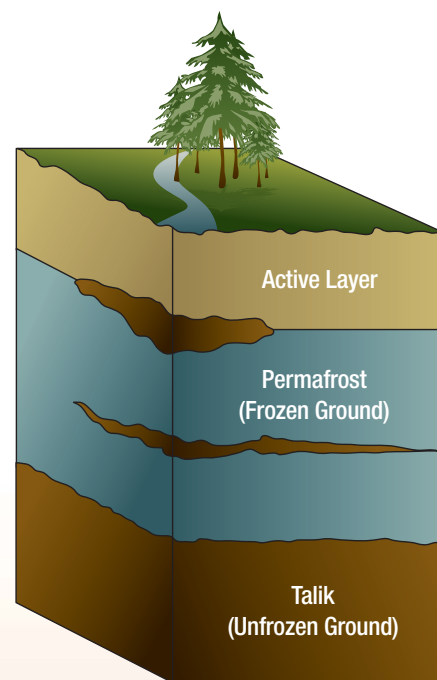


Diagram referenced from Weather Underground. For more information about permafrost, please visit [www.wunderground.com/climate/permafrost.asp](http://www.wunderground.com/climate/permafrost.asp)

To view a short video about climate change in Kwig, visit: [www.indykids.net](http://www.indykids.net).



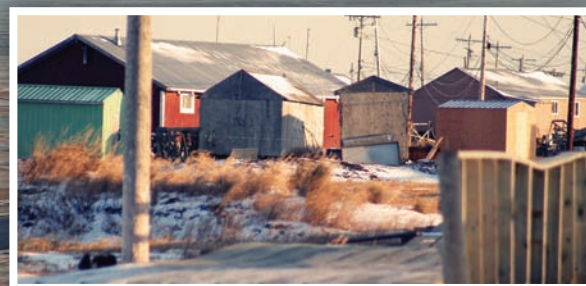
"This building used to be level, but due to the permafrost melting it has become slanted. We're seeing our homeland change."

~ Kira



"I took the pictures of the seagulls because when things actually freeze up for the winter, the seagulls will have all left and it's unusual for them to still be here, which suggests it's not as cold as it looks."

~ Adrianna



"If we don't do something, we could lose this beautiful land that we have lived in for thousands of years, forever. We don't have a lot of money. We need to stay near the ocean so we can fish. We don't want to move farther back each year. We can't leave, but we can't stay either. What you do down where you live has a direct impact on us up here. Please let everyone understand that we're all in this together."

~ Corey







**Meet...  
Eric  
from Congo**

**Name:** Eric Kazamdikwebwe  
**Age:** 11  
**Languages spoken:** Tshiluba, Swahili and French  
**Parents:** François Kalala and Antou Tumba  
**Siblings:** Eric has three brothers and one sister  
**Religion:** Christian  
**Favorite subjects in school:** Computers and history  
**Favorite foods:** Rice and chicken  
**What would you like to be when you grow up?** I would like to be a businessman like my father.  
**What would you like to say to kids in the United States?**  
I am a kid living here in Katanga Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Don't insult other people. Be nice and don't misbehave.



**Congo at a Glance**  
**Population:** 66 million  
**Capital:** Kinshasa  
**Languages:** 4 national languages: Lingala, Kikongo, Tshiluba and Swahili. French is the official language.  
**Religions:** Roman Catholic (50%), Protestant (20%), Kimbanguist, Muslim and Indigenous religions  
**President:** Joseph Kabila  
**War:** The Second Congo War has been going on since 1998 and continues in some parts of the country. By 2008, 5.4 million people had died, mainly due to disease and starvation.

**Learn a little  
Tshiluba**  
Wetuawu = Hello  
Musesu an Avenue = Street  
Njila = Table  
Mesa = Food  
Tshidibua = Ground

PROFILE COURTESY AFRICAWRITES.COM

## indykids!

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### WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

Indykids is a free newspaper and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Children's PressLine: www.colmedia.org  
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### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact Indykids! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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21 percent

That's the amount of the world's carbon dioxide emissions that comes from the United States.

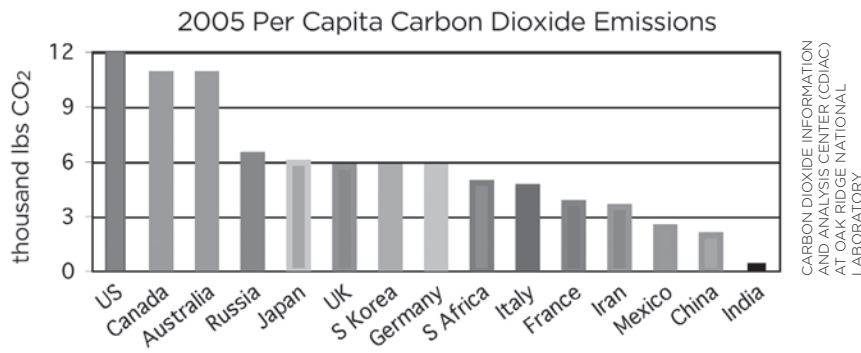
# nation&world

## World Looks to Climate Meeting to Slow Global Warming

By ELAINE MATTHEWS and AMANDA VENDER

Almost 200 countries will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, this December for the United Nations Climate Change Conference. The goal of the conference is to finalize an international agreement to limit emissions of greenhouse gasses that cause global warming. According to the environmental organization Greenpeace, the meeting "represents the best chance we have of reversing current emissions trends in time to prevent the climate chaos that we are hurtling towards."

Copenhagen is a follow-up to the world's first climate treaty, the Kyoto Protocol, which went into effect in 2005 and ends in 2012. Kyoto set targets only for rich countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions while Copenhagen aims to include all countries in the reduction plans. Rich countries are responsible for most of the warming experienced to date. However, recent economic development in the countries with the most people—China and India—means they're using a lot more energy than before, which is boosting these countries' greenhouse emissions. Another important goal in Copenhagen is to get commitments from richer countries to help poorer



RICH COUNTRIES POLLUTE MORE: Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the most important greenhouse gas that is emitted. It traps and reradiates heat in the atmosphere and causes temperatures to rise. Most carbon dioxide is produced by burning fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal for energy. The United States is responsible for about 21% of the world's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but it has only about 4% of the world's population.

“We are going to have more hurricanes, more forest fires, and if we don't do anything, the sea levels will actually rise.... We have to act now, and we have to act fast.”  
— Lauren Thorpe, Greenpeace field organizer

countries pay for their efforts to reduce emissions.

The United States is the only rich country in the world that refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol. This is significant because the United States has always been the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gasses. In meetings leading up to the Copenhagen negotiations, the United States did not say whether it would

agree to reduce its emissions, whereas many European countries have already promised sharp reductions.

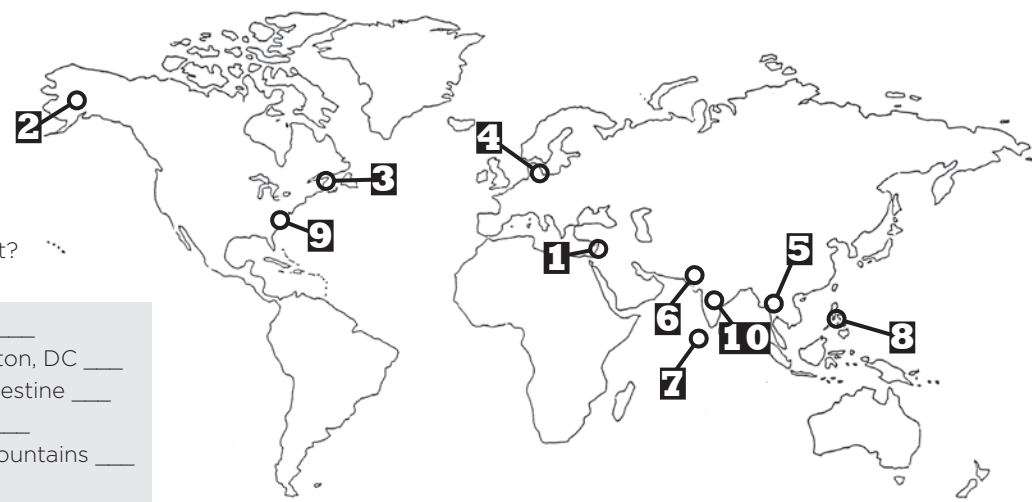
(BELOW) Activists around the globe held rallies on October 24 to call on world leaders to take bold moves to reduce global warming. The day of action was called by an organization called 350.org. Scientists say 350 parts per million (ppm) is the safe upper limit for the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. We are currently at 387 ppm.



## Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers at bottom of this page.

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| a) Alaska ____              | f) Maldives ____           |
| b) Copenhagen, Denmark ____ | g) Washington, DC ____     |
| c) Pakistan ____            | h) Israel/Palestine ____   |
| d) India ____               | i) Thailand ____           |
| e) Philippines ____         | j) Catskill Mountains ____ |



## Heavy Storms Flood India and the Philippines



Residents of Manila, Philippines use a raft to rescue children from floods.

By ELAINE MATTHEWS

Unusually severe storms in southern India and the Philippines, in September and October caused massive flooding that killed more than 1,200 people. Millions were forced to evacuate their homes, and hundreds of thousands found

relief in emergency shelters. These disasters wiped out food crops and raised the possibility of severe food shortages not only in India and the Philippines but also in Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Laos.

Severe storms create all sorts of problems after the rain and wind end. Overflowing rivers and canals can contaminate drinking and bathing water with sewage, increasing the spread of diseases, especially when people are crowded into temporary housing. Raja Angamutthu, a farmer in a heavily flooded district of Andra Pradesh, India told *Inter Press Service*, “For almost one full day, we were desperate, wet and hungry....Our house, farmland,

utensils, everything was floating in a watery grave while we looked on helplessly!” A waiter in the Philippines, Diverson Bloso, Jr., told a reporter from *The New York Times*, “It was terrifying to see the water rising, especially because there were live electrical wires around us. There were trash and rats and cockroaches all around us.”

Were these floods caused by climate change? Weather extremes are always a possibility, so it's impossible to blame an individual storm on climate change. However, scientists agree that climate change will probably cause more frequent severe storms, and recent evidence shows that severe storms are occurring more often.

## U.S. Drones Kill More People in Pakistan

By AMANDA VENDER and MICHAEL NEWTON

When U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton visited Pakistan in late October, she met Pakistanis who were not happy with what the United States is doing in their country. The United States Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.) and the Pakistani military have been carrying out attacks in Pakistan on people they say are Al Qaeda and Taliban leaders. While the United States claims to have killed people it says are terrorists by using unmanned drone airplanes, it has also killed hundreds of innocent people, including children.

“What is actually terrorism in U.S. eyes?” the L.A. Times reported a Pakistani student asked Clinton during her trip. “Is it the killing of innocent people in, let's say, drone attacks? Or is it the killing of innocent people in different parts

of Pakistan, like the bomb blast in Peshawar two days ago?”

Since the drone attacks are carried out not by the U.S. military, but by the C.I.A., the public doesn't know much about them because the C.I.A. keeps its activities secret. “There's no accountability for it. There's no indication of the rules that they use,” Philip Alston, a United Nations special rapporteur told the Democracy Now!, news program. He wants the U.S. government to make clear what it is doing in Pakistan so as to be sure that it is not violating U.S. and international laws.



FLICKR.COM/JMINTEXAS



ABIRAH ASHFAQ AND FARIS

Pakistani women and children march in the town of Karachi one year ago protesting U.S. airstrikes inside Pakistan. Since that time, President Obama has greatly increased the number of drone attacks in Pakistan. In Obama's first ten months as president, there have been 42 C.I.A. drone attacks in Pakistan—more than in the last three years of the Bush administration combined.

(LEFT) KILLING FROM AFAR: Predator drones like this one are small airplanes that have no pilot in them. They can be equipped with video cameras and missiles. The drones are operated by remote controls similar to those of a video game.

## newsbriefs

### Obama Wins Peace Prize

President Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, a very prestigious award given to people who have made major contributions to world peace. The Nobel Committee said it gave the prize to Obama because of “his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples.” Many people feel that Obama does not deserve the prize, in part because he is continuing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Journalist Naomi Klein said that the choice represents a “cheapening of the Nobel Prize.”



WHITEHOUSE.GOV

### Thousands March for Gay Rights

Over 100,000 gay rights advocates and supporters marched to the Capitol in Washington, D.C., on October 11 to demand equal rights—including the rights to marry and to serve openly in the military. Many speakers at the march showed disappointment with President Obama's actions, including pop star Lady Gaga, who shouted, “Obama, I know you are listening...We will continue to push you and your administration to bring your words of promise to a reality.”

### Military Recruitment Up

The U.S. military said it had its best recruiting year since 1973 and that it met all of its recruiting goals. An increase in military pay, a higher budget for recruiting and wide-spread unemployment helped increase enlistment.

### Maldives Holds Underwater Meeting

The Republic of Maldives, a country of islands in the Indian Ocean, held an underwater meeting on October 17 to protest climate change. The meeting was attended



UNITED NATIONS

by the President of Maldives and his cabinet, who wore scuba suits, communicated through hand signals and signed documents while fish swam by. The meeting was meant to draw attention to the rising sea levels caused by global warming that threaten to completely submerge Maldives.

### UN Says Israel Guilty of War Crimes

The United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) criticized Israel for its attack on Gaza, an area of land occupied by Israel, that took place in January 2009. The commission, led by South African judge Richard Goldstone, put out a report saying that, despite Israel's claim that it acted in self-defense, Israel's actions had been directed at the Palestinian people of Gaza as a whole. The report said that both sides committed war crimes. Over 1,300 Palestinians were killed in the Israeli attack, the majority of them civilians. Nine Israelis were killed by Palestinians.



# LOCKED UP

**1 in every 100 adults in the United States is in prison, a far greater number than any other country in the world.** Why does the United States put so many people behind bars, at great hardship for families and great expense to taxpayers? Here is a look at the history of prisons in the United States and at prisons today.

## When Family Members Are In Jail

by students at the Frederick Douglass Academy in New York City

My mother has been to jail before. She was in jail for sixty days. My mother and her jail mates did a lot of things together, and even though they were in jail, it didn't seem like it because they were having too much fun. One of the craziest things my mother and her jail mates did was she lit a cigarette with eyeglasses. I know that my mother has learned that she should never do what she did again. But my mother has become more fun from the kindness and funniest jail mates ever, and I thank them for that.

**-Tamara Jones, 12**

A couple of my family members went to prison. My brother John went for five years for drug dealing. He learned his lesson and got a good job. My brother Phillip went for four years for armed robbery. He learned his lesson and got a good job, too. My father Jimmy got out of prison six years ago after serving 10 years for drug dealing. But he learned his lesson. My brother Steven and his wife went to jail for attempted murder, and both served 10 years. My brother Sean is in jail now and has been in jail before and is coming out in February of 2010. The people who have gotten out of jail, all of them are successful and all of them turned out to better themselves.

**-Nicholas Walker, 11**

## Prison Fact Sheet

### Race Matters

- African Americans, who represent 12.4 percent of the U.S. population, make up 50 percent of all prisoners.
- African American children are eight times more likely than white children to have a parent in prison. Hispanic children are three times more likely than white children.

### Prisons Cost Taxpayers a Lot

- It costs U.S. taxpayers an average of \$24,000 a year to keep one person in prison.
- From 1987 to 2007 the amount of money states spent on prisons increased by 127 percent, compared to 21 percent for colleges and universities.

### Prison Affects Families

- More than 1.7 million children (2.3 percent of all children in the United States) have at least one parent in prison.
- 53 percent of prisoners in the U.S. have at least one child under the age of 18.

"The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons."

- Russian author Fyodor Dostoyevsky

**1790:** First state penitentiary opened in Pennsylvania. The early prisons tried to make prisoners "penitent," or sorry for their crimes.



**1920:** Prisons redefined as "correctional" institutions; probation and parole were widely used.

**1973:** Rockefeller Drug Laws required prison time for some drug convictions, which resulted in a growing prison population.



**1986:** The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 created mandatory minimum sentences for having even small amounts of certain drugs.



## U.S. Prison Timeline

**1817:** First prison using "hard labor" opened in New York. Around this time prisons focused on using work as punishment.

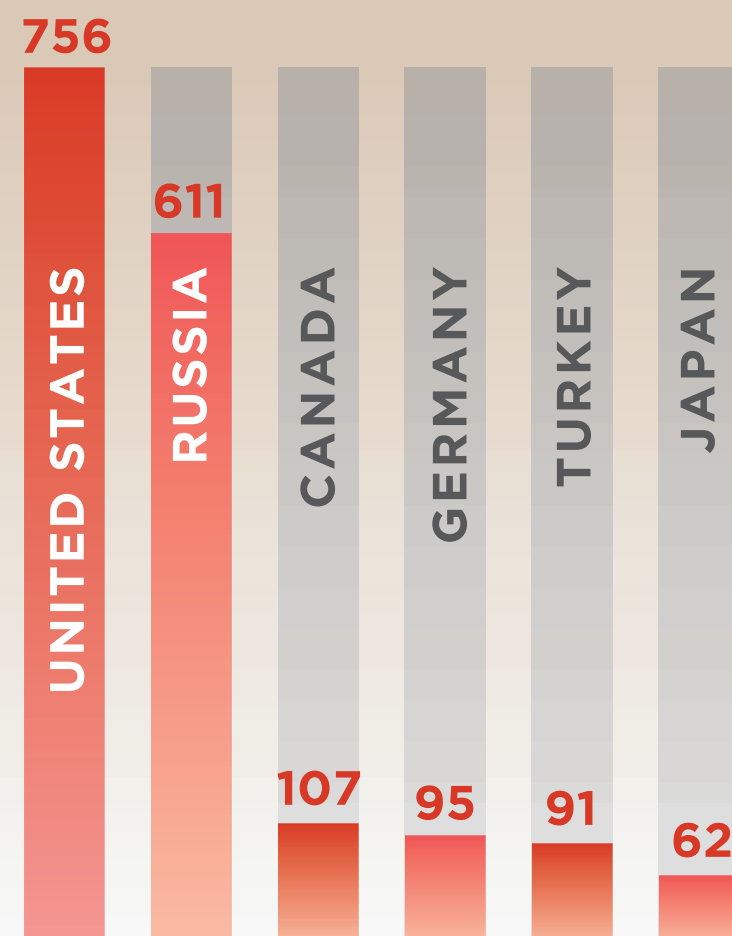


**1960s-1970s:** Prisoners' Rights Movement resulted in cleaner prisons and better health care. Prisoners organized, staged riots and protested to demand better conditions.

**1980s:** Politicians got "tough on crime." The use of probation and parole decreased. More people were imprisoned for longer periods of time, which resulted in severe overcrowding.

**Since 1990:** Even though crime rates have gone down since 1990, more people are being imprisoned, prison terms are being lengthened, and more nonviolent crimes are resulting in prison sentences. Now, over 50 percent of people in federal prison are there for drug crimes, not for violent crimes.

## Prison Population Per 100,000 Inhabitants



## Letters from Rikers Island Prison, New York City

I am 28 years old and have been on this island for 26 months. It began with an awful, nauseating bus ride from the courthouse. You spend about twenty-four hours in intake getting processed. They send you to either a dorm (big room with some metal beds) or a unit with individual cells.

The food is so unhealthy. Nothing but starch and carbs. There is no gym or any real way to stay in shape. They count us like six times a day to make sure we haven't run away. Commissary sells a bunch of junk food. The healthiest things in there are tuna and tea.

The worst part about jail is the strip-searches and the regular searches. When you first come in you are strip-searched. When you return from anywhere outside (i.e. working, hospital, court) they search your cell. It is so degrading and humiliating.

The best things, which they make hard for you anyway, are visits and getting mail.

I just want to sum up by saying not everyone in jail is guilty. We are detainees. We are here to prove our innocence. But to the Department of Corrections we are not innocent until proven guilty. We are guilty until proven innocent.

**-Brigitte Harris**



My first day at Rikers was horrible. I had to be checked out by doctors and sleep on the floor. The food was cold and looked like dog food. The COs (correctional officers) treated me badly. They cursed and called me names.

I try to stay out of trouble and read more, but there is so much drama around me. They have roaches that fly and all types of bugs I have never seen before. It's very dirty. Most people don't take showers. The CO searches my clothes and me at any given time. There is a limit to phone calls, visits, TV, everything. Jail is not the place to be. Freedom is everything.

**-Sparkle Daniel**

To read more letters, visit [www.indykids.net](http://www.indykids.net)

## Glossary

**Parole:** When a prisoner is released for good behavior before completing his or her prison sentence.

**Probation:** Instead of going to prison, a person lives at home but must have regular meetings with a probation officer.

**Sentence:** A punishment given to a criminal by a court.



## Sources

King's College London World Prison Population List, The Pew Center on the States, U.S. Senator Jim Webb, U.S. Department of Justice

Article by Octavia Davis, Bill Marsh, Maya Davis and Zazil Davis-Vazquez



Super Spider Glue



Flickr.com/shapell

Scientists studying golden orb weaver spider webs have noted that the web glue that coats the spiders' silk strands is among the world's strongest glues. A study reported in the ACS journal *Biomacromolecules* reveals two newly discovered proteins in the spider glue that could help people make glue based on "green" or "bio" products rather than on petroleum or crude oil products.

AIDS Vaccine



Flickr.com/thatswitch

Reports released in September about a medical study in Thailand for an HIV vaccine were encouraging at first. HIV stands for "human immunodeficiency virus" and leads to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome), a life-threatening disease which, according to the United Nations, kills two million people a year. Later data showed the vaccine was not so effective in preventing HIV infection. So far, the search for a vaccine to prevent AIDS has been mostly unsuccessful.

WHAT IS NATURAL GAS?



Flickr.com/thesusman

Natural gas is a fossil fuel formed from the remains of dead plants and animals. It is made mostly of methane. It is used for cooking on stoves, generating electricity and creating fertilizer for crops.

30 million That's how many water bottles end up in the trash in the United States every day. science&activism

Make a Classroom Green Team

By KRISTEN VON HOFFMANN

You may have heard the term "sustainability," but what does it mean exactly? Sustainability refers to human systems that run for a long time with little or no harm to the natural environment. In your classroom, the most immediate way to start a sustainability plan is to create a classroom green team. The team can create categories for chores, such as: Energy, Waste Disposal, Food, Products, and Greenspace. Here are some ideas:

In Your Classroom

- Unplug electronics when you're not using them.
- Turn off lights when you leave the classroom as a group.
- Use recycled paper for homework

and classwork.

- Re-use containers for storage.
- Re-use safe waste materials for class projects.

In Your School

- Walk, bike, carpool or use public transportation to get to school.
- Implement a school-wide recycling program.
- Produce materials to educate students about how to recycle metals, bottles, paper, newspapers, magazines, cardboard and plastics.
- If you bring your lunch to school, use reusable bags and bottles.
- Start a school garden to learn about the health, environmental and taste benefits of organic food.



Samuel Garcia, a fifth grade student from PS10 in Brooklyn, NY, poses with Plastic Man. Plastic Man is about the size of a 30-pound boy, and 30 pounds is the amount of plastic bags thrown away in a year by each person in the United States. He sits in class to remind students to use and throw away less plastic because plastic remains in the environment for hundreds of years.

Kristen von Hoffmann is founder of Greenfox Schools. For more information, go to [www.greenfoxschools.com](http://www.greenfoxschools.com)

Fifth Graders Send Message on Natural Gas Drilling



Catskills Mountaineer Sky Hawk and Photographer J. Henry Fair

A natural gas drilling site in Dimock, Pennsylvania, located in the Catskill Mountains. In September 8,000 gallons of toxic fluids spilled from the Cabot Oil & Gas drilling site contaminating local ground water in Dimock.

Molly Doomchin is a sixth grader from Queens, New York.

By MOLLY DOOMCHIN

On April 6, 2009, a fifth grade class from P.S. 78 in Queens, New York went to the YouthCan convention at the American Museum of Natural History. The class presented a movie about natural gas drilling in the Catskill Mountains. New York State is considering opening an area called the Marcellus Shale watershed in the Catskills to drilling.

In order to drill for natural gas, drillers have to get landowners to rent their land. Then they have to cut down trees to clear space for equipment. After the land is cleared, drillers take thousands of gallons of water and mix it with sand and toxic chemicals. The mixture is pumped over a mile underground to release the gas. Finally, drill-

ers load the received gas into trucks and sell it. All this work is done so that U.S. citizens do not have to rely on other countries for gas and oil.

There are many problems with the plan to drill in the Catskills. First, the drillers have to cut down trees to clear space. Also, thousands of gallons of contaminated water are used every time drilling takes place, and this toxic water can mix with the groundwater and make that water toxic, too.

Even though landowners and drillers get very rich because of drilling, the process taints our environment. The fifth graders hope that their film will persuade people to try to stop the plan to drill.

To view the short film the fifth grade class made, go to [www.indykids.net](http://www.indykids.net).



Jasael Noor

Dan Brown, age 20, signed up with the U.S. Marines in September after spending five months looking for a job and not finding anything. Brown, a Jamaican immigrant, said that one of the advantages of enlisting is the chance to receive U.S. citizenship.

your turn

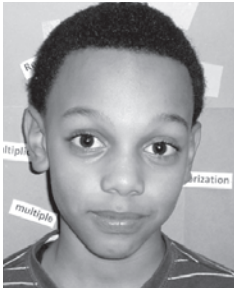
Should Columbus Day still be celebrated?

Fifth graders from the Martin Luther King Jr. School of Excellence in Springfield, Massachusetts offer their opinions.

PHOTOS COURTESY ATASI DAS



We should not have Columbus Day. If you do not care about what I am saying, go ahead and celebrate. But remember that he enslaved people that were nice to him.  
- Denaysia Scott



We should not celebrate Columbus Day because Christopher Columbus did not discover America. Indians were there before him.  
- Ruben Morillo



Yes, because he discovered America all the way from Spain. He meant to discover India to find stuff to own.  
- Benjamin Hunter-Blake



I don't think we should celebrate Columbus Day. Why should we celebrate someone who does bad things to people only to please someone else to get rewards?  
- Chastity Jiles



We should celebrate Columbus because there is no school and some students need a break from school.  
- Nyjier Williams



PHOTO COURTESY JESSE KEARNS

Someday, you could be a } National Park Forestry Worker just like: Jesse Kearns

By ILONA BRAY

Jesse works in Yosemite National Park. He started as a back-country ranger, helping lost or injured hikers. But that job wasn't year-round, so he switched to forestry work. Now he deals with tree hazards: chopping down dead limbs or trees that might otherwise fall on people, clearing campgrounds and trails, and dealing with natural disasters like storms and wildfires. He's also involved in various special projects, like providing cedar bark that the Miwok tribe uses to maintain their sweat lodges and ceremonial rooms.

**IndyKids:** As a kid, did you ever imagine you'd someday be a forestry worker?

**Jesse Kearns:** Growing up in urban Buffalo (New York), I didn't even know these parks were places I could get involved with! But I loved the outdoors and studied wilderness recreation in college. I also spent my summers working for a 'tree doctor,' which was great training.

**IK:** How does your job help the environment?

**JK:** I'm helping protect a sensitive natural resource that people come from around the world to see. Even when removing a tree, we're careful to preserve nearby native plants or archaeological sites.

**IK:** What's been a high point in your job?

**JK:** When I was first here, I remember climbing a peak, looking down, and realizing that I was by myself in this wilderness. It was so new to me, that feeling of freedom.

**IK:** Any tips for kids interested in national park work?

**JK:** Starting in grade school, sign up for class trips or volunteer opportunities—like an overnight program here at the Yosemite Institute. Also contact the Student Conservation Association ([www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org)), which helps high school and college students get internships and jobs. And check out the various National Park jobs at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).

New Limits on Military Recruiters in Schools

By INDYKIDS STAFF

When New York City high school student Sierra Boyd talked a friend out of joining the military, she got something she wasn't expecting: an angry call from her friend's recruiter. "He's yelling at me on the phone, 'you need to mind your business.'"

Incidents like this one stirred investigations and campaigns to limit the military's access to students. For the last six years, the Students Not Soldiers Coalition has lobbied New York City Schools to adopt formal rules for military

recruitment in public schools. Now there is a new policy in New York City schools that says military recruiters are no longer allowed to use class time for recruitment. Schools must also make forms available that students can sign to say that they do not want their contact information given to the military. The new policy could affect what military recruiters are allowed to do in schools in other parts of the United States.

Even if the new regulations are followed, activists are concerned about military recruiters in schools in the first place.

"Many kids don't know that the military spends millions of dollars each year making movies like *Transformers* and videogames to make the idea of war more appealing. Because kids think that there are no consequences to war, they are more likely to sign up," said Denise Romero of the Ya-Ya Network. Ya-Ya is a youth-based organization that advocates for students' rights. "We believe that school and classroom time is for learning, and not for the military," added Ya-Ya's Jennifer Lee. "The military needs to get out of schools."

letters

These letters came from Ms. Kelly Norris' 6th Grade Social Studies class at Manor Middle School in Manor, Texas.

If I would change health care, I would pick the choice allowing everyone to have health insurance and pay less than the original cost. There are a lot of people in need of health care who can't pay the bill.

Mixtli Torres

I agree with 51% of Americans who think we should bring back our troops because President G.W. Bush started the war years ago. I just think it's not worth



fighting for something that started when I was three years old, and I'm 11 now.

Gabby Samaripa

I do not agree with the way health care is. They should have it where you don't have to pay a lot of money if you don't have health insurance. And you don't have to go to the doctor every time you get a little sick.

Elijah Jimenez

I believe everyone should have health care because it isn't fair that only some people get it and not others. What if you're born into a poor family that can't pay for health care? See, it's not a fair system.

Eddy Conveniencia

I think that we need more health care for everyone. If we have more health care for everyone, then everyone will be healthier.

Ana Valdez

WRITE TO INDYKIDS!

Send an e-mail to us at [indykids@indymedia.org](mailto:indykids@indymedia.org), or grab a pencil and write to: "IndyKids," P.O. Box 2281, New York NY 10163







## WHO AM I?

1. I was an African-American activist in the late 1960s.
2. I was a member of the Black Panther Party, an organization that worked to defend African-American communities from violence by the police and provided services such as free breakfasts for poor Black children.
3. I was known for my powerful speeches and for negotiating a truce between Chicago's rival street gangs.
4. Armed Chicago police officers killed me while I slept in my bed on December 4, 1969. I was 21 years old.

Answer: Fred Hampton

## DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Students at Hollenbeck Middle School in East Los Angeles, California, honored the dead by creating altars on Día de los Muertos. The Day of the Dead is traditionally celebrated in Mexico and Latin America on November 1st and 2nd. This particular altar honors immigrants who have died and those who will die while crossing the U.S.-Mexico border in the hopes of having a better life in the United States.

See if you can find the traditional items on the altar:

- ◆ Cempazuchitl (marigold flowers also known as Flor de Muerto)
- ◆ Candles
- ◆ Calaveras (skulls)
- ◆ Pan de Muerto (bread)
- ◆ Glass bottle of Coke
- ◆ Fruit

See if you can find additional items that specifically represent their topic:

- ◆ Toys (for the young immigrants who die)
- ◆ A stuffed coyote (reference to the people immigrants pay to help them cross the border)
- ◆ Water (many immigrants die from dehydration)
- ◆ Mexican and American flags
- ◆ a book, *Borderlands/La Frontera*, by Gloria Anzaldúa



## Teachers!

Find the IndyKids Teacher's Guide for this issue at: [www.indykids.net](http://www.indykids.net)

## WINTER SQUASH SOUP



Credit: flickr.com/raeallen

Ingredients:

- 1 large butternut squash or small pumpkin
- 5 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 chopped onion
- 3 cloves chopped garlic
- 5 cups water, or chicken or vegetable stock
- salt and pepper to taste

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
2. Cut the squash or pumpkin in half and take out the seeds. Brush the squash or pumpkin with olive oil.
3. Place the squash or pumpkin on a cookie sheet and bake for about 25 minutes until soft. Instead of using an oven, you could bake the squash or pumpkin in a microwave until soft (about 10-12 minutes).
4. Sauté chopped onions and garlic in a large pan with olive oil.
5. Scoop the squash out of its skin and add to the pan. Add 5 cups of water or stock, salt, and pepper. Bring to a boil and simmer for 10 minutes.
6. When cool, put the soup in a blender until smooth. Optional: Top with oregano as a garnish.

## WORDSEARCH

S	U	B	M	U	L	O	C	B	R	O	C
A	N	A	T	U	R	A	L	G	A	S	O
T	O	K	G	H	Y	S	F	D	E	O	P
S	B	S	B	V	F	V	M	N	T	K	E
O	E	A	K	A	G	N	I	M	A	L	N
R	L	L	P	C	B	P	L	Z	M	L	H
F	Z	A	L	C	P	D	I	A	L	I	A
A	W	M	Y	I	B	R	T	Z	L	K	G
M	B	U	L	N	V	O	A	Q	I	S	E
R	Q	I	L	E	I	N	R	O	K	T	N
E	H	N	B	P	X	E	Y	X	S	A	L
P	R	I	S	O	N	S	O	I	U	C	J

See if you can find these words from this issue of IndyKids:

Alaska  
Catskill  
Columbus  
Copenhagen  
Drones  
Military  
Natural Gas  
Nobel  
Permafrost  
Philippines  
Prisons  
Vaccine

By Maya Davis, age 13

## indykids!

